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Took E to dinner tonight at Mario's Villa d'Este. The prices in many New York restaurants are so appallingly high that I wonder they can sustain themselves. I suppose most of the diners have expense accounts; I wish I had.

September 29, 1962 - Saturday

Weather clear today. E and I lunched with Ellen and Jim at the Colony. Ate smelts. Cannot understand why this, one of the best of all fish, is not a more popular dish. As a boy in Baltimore, I used to consume grilled smelts for breakfast.

Wrote draft of a speech this afternoon, for delivery next month at Manchester. I hope I get there before it is announced we expect to close our Consulate. I think the Department is misguided about closing down a large number of Consulates in the UK and on the European continent, without regard to the public relations aspect of such a move. An effective Consul is more valuable, in my view, than most of our propaganda efforts in his locality. Moreover, because of visa fees, Consulates are the least costly of our foreign establishments. The Secretary of State is said to be personally strongly in favor of the abolition of many such posts, so his determination will probably be decisive.

Went late this afternoon to see "Anna Karenina" starring Greta Garbo, supported by Frederic March, Basil Rathbone, Freddie Bartholomew, and other by-gone screen celebrities. She is really marvelous. The distortion of Tolstoy's story cannot impair her strange attractiveness. I suppose the movie was made about thirty years ago; no dates were mentioned on the title spaces.

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E and I dined with the Alfred Jaretskis. ~~Drank Egon Muller's Scharzhofberger~~ Spa 1959, ate their admirable food, and bathed in their even more admirable friendship.

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I went to the office to read more of such exhilarating and unexpected news.

The PM sent for me to visit him at 5:30. I had a genial hour with him, conversing, smoking, and drinking. He has read widely, and is most agreeable in conversation, as well as possessed of considerable personal charm. His own small study on an upper floor of Admiralty House is attractive, as are all the rooms I have seen in this Dolphin-decorated building. I should think a Prime Minister might well prefer living here to residing at 10 Downing Street.

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